



OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

VIA EMAIL

July 2, 2019

Lipton Beryl
MuckRock News
411A Highland Ave
Sommerville, MA 02144-2516

Re: OIG-2019-00134

Dear Lipton Beryl:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated March 15, 2019 which was received by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) on the same date. You request the following information under the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. §: The following materials related to the funding, staffing, and activities of this FOIA office:

- Budget materials for the years 2017, 2018, and 2019, all budget materials or plans applicable to offices responsible for processing and response to FOIA requests and appeals submitted to this Bureau and its offices.
- Staffing orders/reports/contacts for the years 2017 and 2018, staffing reports and plans, including the count of employee numbers and for offices responsible for processing and responses to FOIA requests and appeals submitted to this Bureau and its offices.

Please note that our office sent you an email on May 8, 2019, stating that we needed you to clarify what you were requesting in your March 15, 2019 request. We sent you an email again on May 28, 2019, stating that the FOIA requires that requests describe the records sought with sufficient detail to allow an agency employee familiar with the subject area of the request to locate the records with a reasonable amount of effort. We let you know that your March 15, 2019 request, did not adequately describe records sought, therefore, we were unable to process it at that time. Our May 28, 2019 email stated that if we did not receive clarification of the information you requested within 20 working days that we will presume that you are no longer interested in pursuing your request and we will close our file on it. *See* 43 C.F.R. § 2.5(d). As of this date, we have not received any further clarification. Therefore, we are closing your FOIA request with our office.

If you disagree with this response, you may appeal this response to the OIG's FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer. If you choose to appeal, the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer must receive your FOIA appeal **no later than 90 workdays** from the date of this letter. Appeals arriving or delivered after 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, will be deemed received on the next workday.

Your appeal must be made in writing. You may submit your appeal and accompanying materials to the OIG FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer by mail, courier service, fax, or email. All communications concerning your appeal should be clearly marked with the words: "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL." You must include an explanation of why you believe the OIG's response is in error. You must also include with your appeal copies of all correspondence between you and the OIG concerning your FOIA request, including your original FOIA request and the OIG's response. Failure to include with your appeal all correspondence between you and the OIG will result in the Department's rejection of your appeal, unless the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer determines (in the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer's sole discretion) that good cause exists to accept the defective appeal.

Please include your name and daytime telephone number (or the name and telephone number of an appropriate contact), email address and fax number (if available) in case the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer needs additional information or clarification of your appeal. The OIG FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Office Contact Information is the following:

Office of the Inspector General
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
MS-4428
Washington, DC 20240
Attn: FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Office

Telephone: (202) 208-6742
Fax: (202) 219-1944
Email: foia@doioig.gov

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of FOIA. *See* [5 U.S.C. 552\(c\)](#). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

The 2007 FOIA amendments created the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road - OGIS
College Park, MD 20740-6001

E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Web: <https://ogis.archives.gov>
Telephone: 202-741-5770

Facsimile: 202-741-5769
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

Please note that using OGIS services does not affect the timing of filing an appeal with the Department's FOIA & Privacy Act Appeals Officer.

However, should you need to contact me, my telephone number is (202) 208-1644 and the email is foia@doioig.gov.

Sincerely,

Eric Trader

Eric Trader
Government Information Specialist